[Translation]

Discriminatory Policy on Indian Items

4424 SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
JUSTICE SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Exports Face Discrimination in 69 nations';

(b) if so, the details of those countries which have adopted discriminatory policy on the import of Indian goods alongwith the details of such items/products and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the pressure is being brought by World Trade Organisation to open Indian Market for foreign products; and

(d) if so the reaction of the Government in this regard and the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) 69 countries including 21 developed countries discriminate against Indian exports. The products of export mentioned by FIEO include textile and leather goods, packaging, pharmaceuticals, cars, shrimps, meat and flowers.

According to FIEO there is a discrimination by way of high tariffs imposed by certain countries, preferential arrangements under Regional Trading Arrangements, protection of health and environment and standards and technical regulations in force in the country of import. Most of these are seen to be consistent with the relevant GATT/ WTO Agreements. If there is inconsistency, we have the right to approach the WTO dispute settlement mechanism for redressal which we have already done in a few cases.

(c) and (d) At the consultations held by the Committee on Balance-of-Payments-Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with India in January 1997 under Article-XVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, major developed countries were of the view that the present balance of payments situation did not warrant a continuation of import restrictions under the cover of balance of payments provisions of Article-XVIII. They were of the view that India could protect its domestic industry through appropriate tariffs. The Indian delegation had pressed the argument that while the monetary resources position might appear to be satisfactory, there was need for caution and that certain areas of concern had to be taken into account. The Committee on Balance of Payments has postponed consultation to the week commencing 2nd June and has invited India to present a phase-out plan at the resumed consultation.

[English]

Establishment of Industrial Township

4425 SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for setting up of small industrial townships throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such industrial town ships that exist in the country at present; and

(d) the State-wise number of such Industrial townships proposed to be set up in near future ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Seizure of contrab and goods

4426 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the value of contraband goods including narcotics seized by Customs authorities at Calicut and Trivandram airports in Kerala during 1995-96 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : The value of contraband goods seized by Customs authorities at Calicut and Trivandram Airport in Kerala during 1995-96 is as under :-

Airport	Value of seizure (Rs. in lakhs)
Trivandram	981.80
Calicut	742.86

No case of narcotics seizure was effected during this period